

Remarks

Claims 3-6, 13-16 and 20-21 are canceled.

Claims 1, 18, 22 and 23 are amended.

Claims 1, 2, 7-12, 17-19 and 22-24 are present upon entry of this paper and are under consideration.

There are no allowed claims.

Amendments

Claim 1 is now limited to the scope of original claim 3.

Claims 18, 22 and 23 are amended to properly depend on amended claim 1.

No new matter is added.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation/divisional applications to re-claim the deleted matter.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-12, 17-18, 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Mor, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,146,757.

Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mor '757.

The present claims, all directly or indirectly dependent on amended claim 1, are aimed at polyolefin fibers or filaments containing a melt blend which comprises a polyolefin and a certain

ethoxylated aliphatic alcohol, woven or nonwoven fabrics made therefrom, and articles of manufacture made therefrom.

Mor '757 requires that the first wetting agent incorporated into the thermoplastic polymer is an ethoxylated alkylphenol, as pointed out by the Examiner. There is no overlap between these alkylphenol compounds and the present ethoxylated aliphatic alcohol compounds of formula (Ia). The present compounds of formula (Ia) contain no phenol groups.

Mor '757 does teach a second wetting agent that may be an alkoxylated fatty alcohol. According to this reference, fatty alcohols are primary alcohols having from about 8 to about 20 carbons (col. 9, lines 23-27 and lines 55-59).

The specific fatty alcohols mentioned by Mor, col. 9, lines 37-38, are octyl, decyl, lauryl, myristyl, cetyl and stearyl alcohols, representing alcohols having 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 carbons respectively.

Present compounds of formula (I) require R_1 to be an alkyl of from 22 to 40 carbon atoms. There is no possible overlap of the disclosure of Mor with the present claims. Therefore the present claims are not anticipated nor can they be obvious over the disclosure of Mor.

The outstanding results of the present working Examples, pages 26-30 of the specification, could not at all have been expected from the teachings of Mor '757.

Applicants submit that in light of the present discussion, that the art rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants wish to submit EP0931805 for consideration. The reference is attached herewith.

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp.
540 White Plains Road
P.O. Box 2005
Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005
Tel. (914)785-2783
Fax (914)785-7102

Respectfully submitted,



Tyler A. Stevenson
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 46,388

Attachments: Request for continued prosecution
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